



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Glacier Bay National Park  
and Preserve

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## Glacier Bay News Release

**Effective date:** 6AM June 3, 2005

**Contact(s):** Chuck Young (Chief Ranger)

**Phone number:** 907 697-2230

**Date:** June 2, 2005

### Vessel Speed and Course Restrictions Implemented to Protect Whales

In Accordance with Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations  
13.65 (b)(3)(iv)(D)(2)(v)(A)(2)

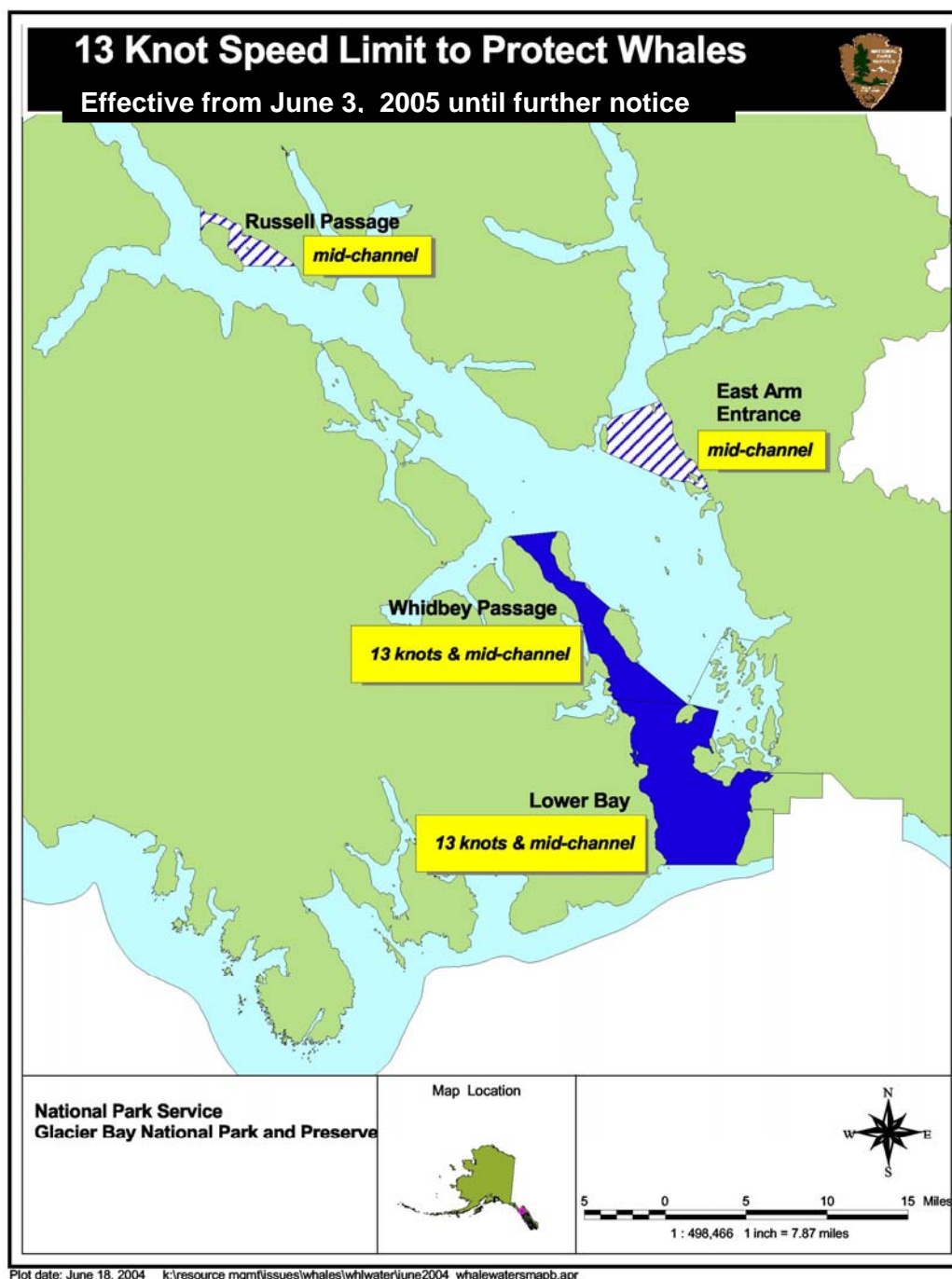
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Superintendent Tomie Lee announced today that a vessel speed limit of 13 knots through the water for all vessels is being implemented in lower Glacier Bay and Whidbey Passage to protect humpback whales that have been sighted in the area. During the past week, as many as 12 - 18 humpback whales have been observed consistently in the lower bay and Whidbey Passage, distributed widely between Point Carolus and northern Drake Island including mid-channel in Sitakaday Narrows. The 13 knot speed restriction in the lower bay will apply from 6 AM Friday June 3 until further notice. Vessels greater than 18 feet in length passing through this area are also restricted to a mid-channel course or 1 nautical mile offshore.

Speed and course restrictions in whale waters are intended to reduce the disruption of feeding whales and to lower the risk of whale/vessel collisions. The humpback whale is a federally listed endangered species that feeds on small schooling fish and krill in Alaska waters.

All motorized vessels are required to follow these speed and course restrictions at all times, except when wind or sea conditions would make it unsafe to do so. Boaters are advised to verify whale waters designations prior to entering Glacier Bay by telephoning (907)697-2627 or by contacting KWM20 Bartlett Cove on marine radio. (continued next page)

As shown on the map below, the speed and course restrictions are in effect in lower Glacier Bay and Whidbey Passage. These areas are defined by:

The lower bay whale waters include the waters extending from the mouth of Glacier Bay to a line drawn between the northern tip of Strawberry Island and the northern tip of Lars Island. This boundary is shown on NOAA nautical chart 17318 of Glacier Bay. Whidbey Passage whale waters are defined by an imaginary line from the north tip of Drake Island to the mainland shore at the southern edge of the mouth of Geikie Inlet. The eastern boundary is defined by the western shores of Drake, Francis and Willoughby Islands, and continues due south to the northern boundary of Lower Bay whale waters near Berg Bay.



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